

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

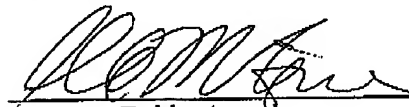
This amendment is in response to the Office Action dated December 1, 2005. Appreciation is expressed to the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter with regard to claims 3 and 6.

In response to the indication of allowable subject matter, applicants have canceled claim 1, without prejudice to the right to file the canceled claim in a continuation application, and have amended claim 3 into independent form to incorporate all subject matter of claim 1. In light of the indication of allowable subject matter if claim was rewritten into independent form, entry of this amendment and allowance of the amended claim 3 is respectfully requested. Also, allowance of claims 2, 4 and 5, which have been made dependent on claim 3, is also respectfully requested.

With regard to claim 6, it is indicated in the Office Action that claim 6 contains allowable subject matter, but is objected to "as being dependent upon a rejected base claim." However, in reviewing claim 6 in the form in which it was presented in the March 8, 2004 Preliminary Amendment, it is noted that claim 6 is already an independent claim. Therefore, it appears that the appropriate indication with regard to claim 6 would be allowance of this claim without the need for introducing the subject matter of any additional claimed subject matter. Accordingly, such action is respectfully requested. If, on the other hand, the Examiner had some other intention with regard to claim 6, it is requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney to discuss this matter.

To the extent necessary, applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR §1.136. Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the deposit account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP, Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case: 503.43406X00), and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP



Gregory E. Montone
Reg. No. 28,141

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